

Please amend claim 7 as follows:

B3  
7. (amended) A table or counter mat according to claim 6 wherein the non-woven polyester has a density of about 450 to 650 grams per square meter.

[Please amend claim 8 as follows:]

8. (amended) A table or counter mat according to claim 5 wherein the textile surface includes a textile marking providing a coloring, a print or an advertising message viewable from above.

Please amend claim 11 as follows:

B4  
11. (amended) A table or counter mat according to claim 10 wherein the top liquid absorbent textile surface is formed from a polyester surface with a pile height substantially in the range of 3 to 7 millimeters.

[Please amend claim 12 as follows:]

12. (amended) A table or counter mat according to claim 8 wherein the top liquid absorbent textile surface is formed from a tufted nylon cut pile surface with a pile height substantially in the range of 5 to 10 millimeters.

[Please amend claim 13 as follows:]

13. (amended) A table or counter mat according to claim 12 wherein the textile surface has a density of about 600 grams per square meter.

Please amend claim 16 as follows:

B5  
16. (amended) A method of forming a table or counter mat including:  
a) forming a nitrile rubber sheet material as a backing layer;  
b) forming an intermediate layer of non-woven polyester fabric;  
c) forming a textile surface layer to form an upper layer; and  
d) aligning all three layers and compressing the layered materials by a heated platen for selected time duration, pressure and temperature settings to cure and bond the nitrile rubber backing to the intermediate layer and upper textile layer;

wherein the resultant table or counter mat lays flat and is able to support stably a glass or other similar liquid vessel with the table or counter mat liquid absorbent to absorb any spilled liquid.

Please amend claim 18 as follows: